

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



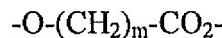
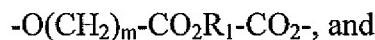
where

Z represents H or alkyl;

POLY and POLY' are poly(alkylene oxide) groups that can be the same or different and are represented by the formula $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CHRO})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}-$ in which R is H or alkyl, and n ranges from about 10 to about 4000;

Q represents a functional group; and

W represents a hydrolytically unstable linkage selected from



where m ranges from 1 to 10, and R₁ is -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂- or -CH(CH₃)CH₂-.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 1, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of aldehydes, carboxylic acids, ~~active esters, active carbonates, carbonate esters, N-succinimidyl esters, sulfonate esters, amines, hydrazides, orthopyridyl disulfides, [[and]] thiols, isocyanates, alcohols, and epoxide.~~

3. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



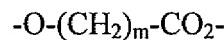
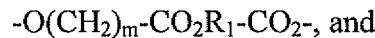
where

Z represents H or alkyl;

POLY and POLY' are poly(ethylene glycol) groups represented by the formula $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ in which n ranges from about 10 to about 4000;

Q represents a functional group; and

W represents a hydrolytically unstable linkage selected from



where m ranges from 1 to 10, and R₁ is -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂- or -CH(CH₃)CH₂-.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 3, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of aldehydes, carboxylic acids, ~~active esters, active carbonates,~~ sulfonate esters, amines, hydrazides, orthopyridyl disulfides, [[and]] thiols, carbonate esters, N-succinimidyl esters, isocyanates, alcohols, and epoxide.